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Date of Signature and Deposit: October 24, 2001


Nicholas J. Seay

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Alan D. Attie
Donald L. Gillian-Daniel
Paul W. Bates

Date: October 24, 2001

Serial No.: 09/620,820

Group Art Unit: 1633

Filed: 07/21/00

Examiner: C. Qian

Title: INHIBITION OF LIPOPROTEIN SECRETION

File No.: 960296.97290

RESPONSE

Commissioner For Patents
Washington DC 20231


Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 29, 2001 in the file of this application the applicants respond as follows:

The applicants elect the claims of Group I.

Nevertheless, the applicants traverses this requirement for restriction. While Claims 1-12 are drawn to a method, and Claims 13-16 are drawn to a fusion protein, the Claims of 1-12 are essentially directed to expression of the fusion protein claimed in Claims 13-16. Thus although the nucleic acid in Group I is chemically different from the protein of Group II, they are biologically and functionally highly related and a search for one would necessarily encompass the other. Therefore in the interest of efficiency, both for the applicants and the Office, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider this requirement and withdraw it so that all the claims may be considered in a single application.

Respectfully submitted,


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